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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,667	03/06/2002	Thomas B. Lewis	538.02	3833

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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,667

Applicant(s)

LEWIS ET AL.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10-14, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 and 15-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 10-11, 12-14, 13, 21-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyden et al. (US 2003/0112325, filed 12-13-2001, hereinafter Boyden).

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Boyden teaches the following: in a method/device of video conferencing between first and second locations, the first location having a first video camera (148, fig. 1) and a first image monitor (114, fig. 1) and a the second conference location (not shown) having a second video conferee (similar to 120, fig. 1), a second video camera (similar to 148) and a second image monitor (similar to 114) wherein the first video monitor displays an image of the second video conferee and the second video monitor displays an image of the first video conferee and, wherein the first and second video conferees face the first and second video cameras and first and second video monitors , respectively, the improvement comprising locating the first and second video cameras proximate the first and second image monitors, respectively, such that the first video camera (148, fig. 1) is placed at an emotionally neutral field of the image of the second video conferee and the second video camera is placed at an

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emotionally neutral field of the image of the first video conferee (figs. 1-2, paragraphs: 0023-0028, 0047, 0055-0056).


Regarding claims 2-3, 10-11, 13-14, 21-22, Boyden further teaches the following: emotionally neutral field comprises an area as being above the eyes and below hair line and horizontally between the outer extremities of the eyes defining the forehead region of a video conferee, each of the first and second video cameras (148, figs. 1-2) are located above the eyes of each of the first and second video conferees such that the optical axis of the first video camera is aimed downwardly towards the eyes of the first video conferee and the optical axis of the second video camera is aimed downwardly towards the eyes of the second video conferee (figs. 1-2, paragraphs: 0047, 0055-0056), the first and second video cameras (148, fig. 1) are adjustably positionable upon the first and second video monitors such that the first video camera is adjustably maintained within the emotionally neutral field of the image of the second conferee appearing upon the first video monitor and is further adjustable to maintain its optical axis aimed at the eyes of the first video conferee and the second video camera is adjustably maintained within the emotionally neutral field of the image of the first conferee appearing upon the second video monitor and is further adjustable to maintain its optical axis aimed at the eyes of the second video conferee (paragraphs: 0028, 0055-0056), video cameras are remotely adjustable at a distance from each camera location (paragraph: 0050).

3. Claims 4-9, 15-20, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00; every other F Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703)305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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